

tions to hand include KJR, Seattle; KVOO, Tulsa; KBX, Portland; JOBK (asks for reports); and 2CO, Corowa. Stations on black-list are: KZRM, KMOX, 3HA, XBR, and 7LA.—DX135 OC (Dunedin).

Australian Schedules.

SCHEDULE of 2SM is as follows:— Week-days: 9.30 a.m. to 10.30 a.m.; 12 noon to 2 p.m.; 7.45 p.m. to 12.30 a.m. Sundays: 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.; 8 p.m. to 12.15 a.m. (N.Z. summer time). Another new B station in Australia is 5PI, Midlands Broadcasting Service, Ellen Street, Port Pirie, 1041 kc. (288 metres), power 50 watts. Schedule is: 9.30 p.m. to 1 a.m. daily (N.Z. summer time).—H. Walker (Bluff).

2ZK Coming in Well.

HAS 2ZK, Wanganui, increased power lately? The loudest I could hear him

last winter was about R5-6, and every Saturday morning now I receive him at R9. He is not always on his right frequency—600 kc. (489 m.)—as he has been picked up several times on 575 kc. (521 m.)—"Red Bird" (Wellington).

Opening of 2GN.

DX conditions in Wellington improved last week, Jan. 26 being a good night, especially for the small Australian "B's." On Jan. 14 WFAA, Dallas, Texas, 800 kc. (375 m.), was heard at R8 on a test programme, which concluded at 8.55 p.m. N.Z.S.T. What was apparently the official opening of 2GN, Goulburn, N.S.W., was heard being relayed from 2SM, Sydney, 1370 kc. (236 m.), at 10 p.m. on Jan. 25. At 1 a.m. on Jan. 27 4ZL, Dunedin, was carrying out an interesting rebroadcast of G5SW, Chelmsford, England.—DX2W (Wellington).

Particulars of CFON.

LATEST loggings include WFIW, Hopkinsville, who was coming in so loudly that I could separate him from KOIN and KGU, KREG, KXRO, and KSO. Verifications are just to hand from KYW, KILX, KMPC, and CFON. Particulars of the latter are:—Frequency, 985 kc. (304.5 m.); power, 10 kw. It is owned by "The Voice of the Prairie, Ltd." No schedule is given.—"Wainui" (Gisborne).

Two Well-known Broadcasting Systems.

THERE seems to be a great deal of discussion about stations belonging to the Pacific North-West System. I received a verification from KHJ, Los Angeles, recently, and they enclosed a list of all stations belonging to the two systems to which they belong. They are as follow:—Pacific North-West System: KHJ, Los Angeles; KOIN, Portland; KVI, Tacoma; KOL, Seattle; and KFPY, Spokane. Californian System: KHJ, Los Angeles; KFRC, San Francisco; KGB, San Diego; KDB, Santa Barbara; KMJ, Fresno; KFBK, Sacramento; and KWG, Stockton.—"Amuri" (Invercargill).

A Novel Earth.

FROM 7-8 p.m. on Jan. 24 the dial was simply "alive" with American stations. KGER, Longbeach, California, although only a 1 kw. station, was twice as loud as the more powerful KFI and KGO. Since making an addition to my earth system I am receiving the Americans twice as loudly as before. Beside a six-foot metal earth pipe my earth lead is taken to three 3ft. Wooden stakes, 6 feet apart, and the first of them 4 feet distant from the main earth pipe. Round each of these I have taken 10 turns of earth wire, continuing on from the bottom of one to the top of the next. The earth is kept damp. Was 2ZW broadcasting at 12.45 a.m. on Jan. 23, because I heard a station on that frequency?—DX94W (Raetihi).

"Better Late than Never."

"JOEY" (Hokianga), J.P.C. (P.N.), and others. Information from America is to the effect that the North-West Broadcasting Company, which operated stations KGA, KJR, and KBX, found itself in financial difficulties about six months ago, and the three stations were bought by the N.B.C. at a forced sale. The best midnight Americans heard here are KFBI, Milford; WTAM, Cleveland; and KMOX, St. Louis. 2CO, Corowa, is easily the loudest Australian heard here at present, while 4BH and 2SM are the best of the new "B's." 4ZL is wonderful for a 100-watter. On Jan. 21 at 11.30 p.m. I had him at R9 with a small loop antenna. Black-listed stations are JOYK, WBBM, 2XL, and 3ZC. In the case of 2XL I blame an inadequate report. However, in all these cases I have hopes that the persons responsible will remember the maxim, "Better late than never." Congratulations, 94W, on joining the club.—DX42W (Wellington).

N.Z. Shortwave Club

The Secretary Writes

AT the club's December meeting of the Wellington members, about 64 members and friends were present, though a number of familiar faces were conspicuous by their absence. The idea of a radio shack was discussed, but nothing definite was done beyond explaining the advantages of such a place.

The main item of the evening was another lecture by one of the leading members, Mr. G. R. McCarthy, better known as "Mack." I hope to get details for publication. Dealing with a special horizontal aerial, Mack passed on to tuning

and stressed the necessity for tuning just under reaction, especially in view of "the man around the corner," who might also want to listen. Passing on to valves, he explained many interesting points, then as a sideline described the difference in tuning between code and broadcast signals from the listener's and the amateur's point of view. Dealing with apparatus, he pointed out the danger of trouble through using unsuitable condensers, such as larger ones cut down, and others with loose washers, etc. There were special short-wave condensers manufactured especially for this branch of radio. Likewise, aerial condensers must be suitable for the set. Mack emphatically states that good headphones are absolutely essential. An interesting point was that a three-valve set was not always strong enough to put stations on the speaker without causing interference, and that the two-valve set was better. This because when a valve had been in use some time it developed crackling noises, and therefore, by using phones on two valves, there was less magnification of these parasitic noises.

When the membership of the club justifies it, Mr. McCarthy promises to consider a special short-wave club circuit for members, and, also, for those wishing to experiment with ultra short-waves, he will be willing to give assistance.

Will all short-wavers please note that I have changed my address, and am now at No. 4 Queen Street, Mount Victoria. Now that I am away from a locality notorious for interference, I hope to be able to get better results.

When writing, please address: A. B. McDonagh, Secretary N.Z.S.W.C., 4 Queen Street, Wellington. Your fraternally,—MAC.

Jottings

THREADED brass rod should not be held directly in the metal jaws of a vice, but should be placed between two pieces of soft wood which can with safety be gripped by the vice.

AS it is difficult to make perfectly clean cuts through brass rod without spoiling the thread, a useful method is to affix one or two nuts to the rod before cutting it, so that when these are unscrewed the thread displacement is restored.

IF your cone loudspeaker is enclosed in a box and reception is a trifle "boomy," try the effect of removing the back of the case, when, if results are improved, an open-work back is indicated.

AMONG common causes of distortion are batteries running down, use of unsuitable valves, too much reaction, insufficient A, B, or C voltage, and an unsuitable value of grid leak.



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